BEATLES

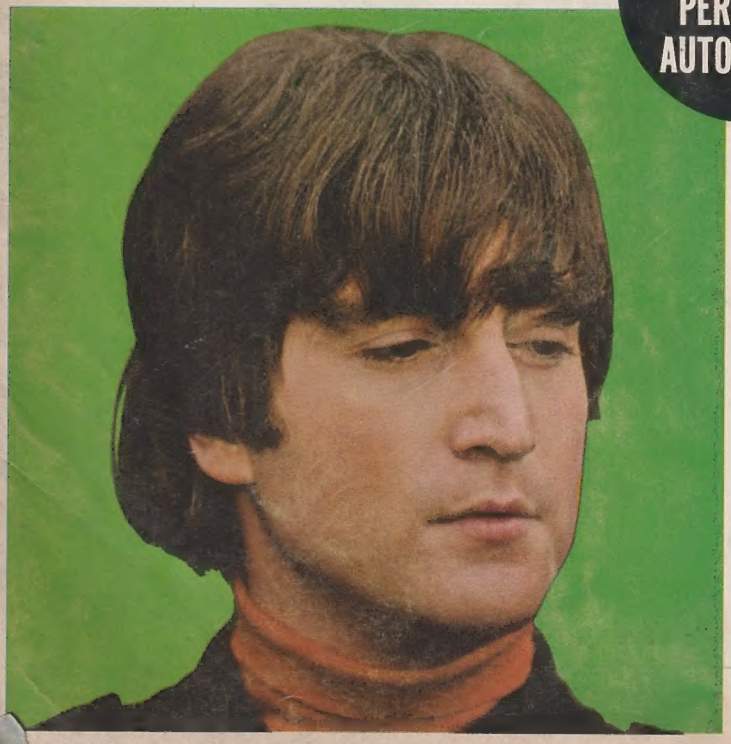
35c

16 SCOOP!

COMPLETE STORY FROM BIRTH TO NOW

7 HUGE COLOR PIN-UPS · OVER 100 HOT NEW PIX

HOME ADDRESSES
PERSONAL AUTOGRAPHS



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Fantastic 16 Scoop

BEATLES
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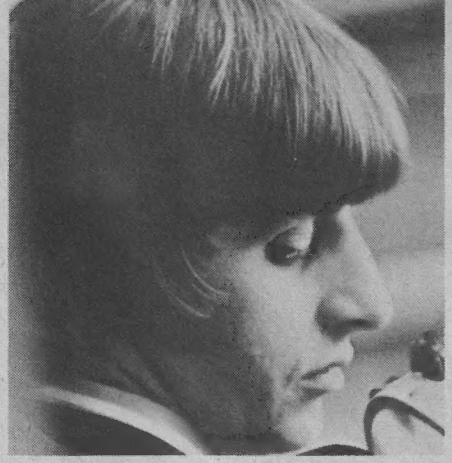

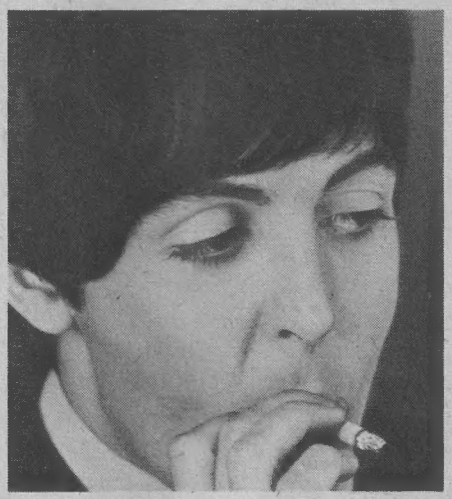

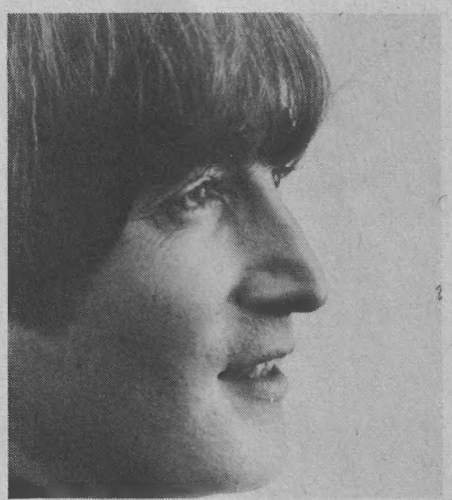

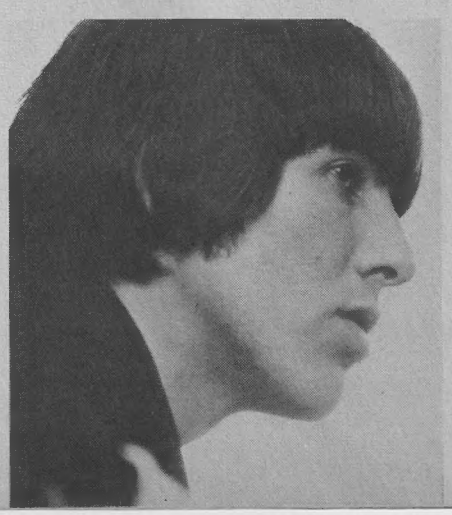

IN THIS FABULOUS MAGAZINE HERE'S WHAT YOU GET:

OVER 100 EXCLUSIVE NEW PIX

7 HUGE COLOR PIN-UPS

THE BEATLES' HOME ADDRESSES AND PERSONAL AUTOGRAPHS

PICTURES FROM THEIR CHILDHOOD, HIGH SCHOOL DAYS, HAMBURG DAYS AND EARLY LIVERPOOL DAYS

"THE BIRTH OF THE BEATLES" BY SAM LEACH, THE LIVERPUDLIAN WHO HAS KNOWN THE BOYS SINCE THEIR EARLY TEENS

STRANGE STORY OF THE BEATLE WHO VANISHED

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE "HARD ROAD UP"

THE ENTIRE BEATLES STORY FROM THE BEGINNING TO THE PRESENT, WRITTEN BY THEIR RELATIVES, CLOSEST FRIENDS AND THE LIVERPOOL GIRLS WHO REALLY KNEW ALL ABOUT JOHN, PAUL, RINGO AND GEORGE

COMPLETE RECORD LIST TELLING WHO SINGS WHAT

FACT SHEETS AND NEW PICTURES OF CYNTHIA LENNON, MAUREEN STARR, JANE ASHER AND PATTIE BOYD

PLUS THE VERY LATEST LAST-MINUTE, RED-HOT BEATLE GOSSIP

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GLORIA STAVERS, Editor-in-Chief

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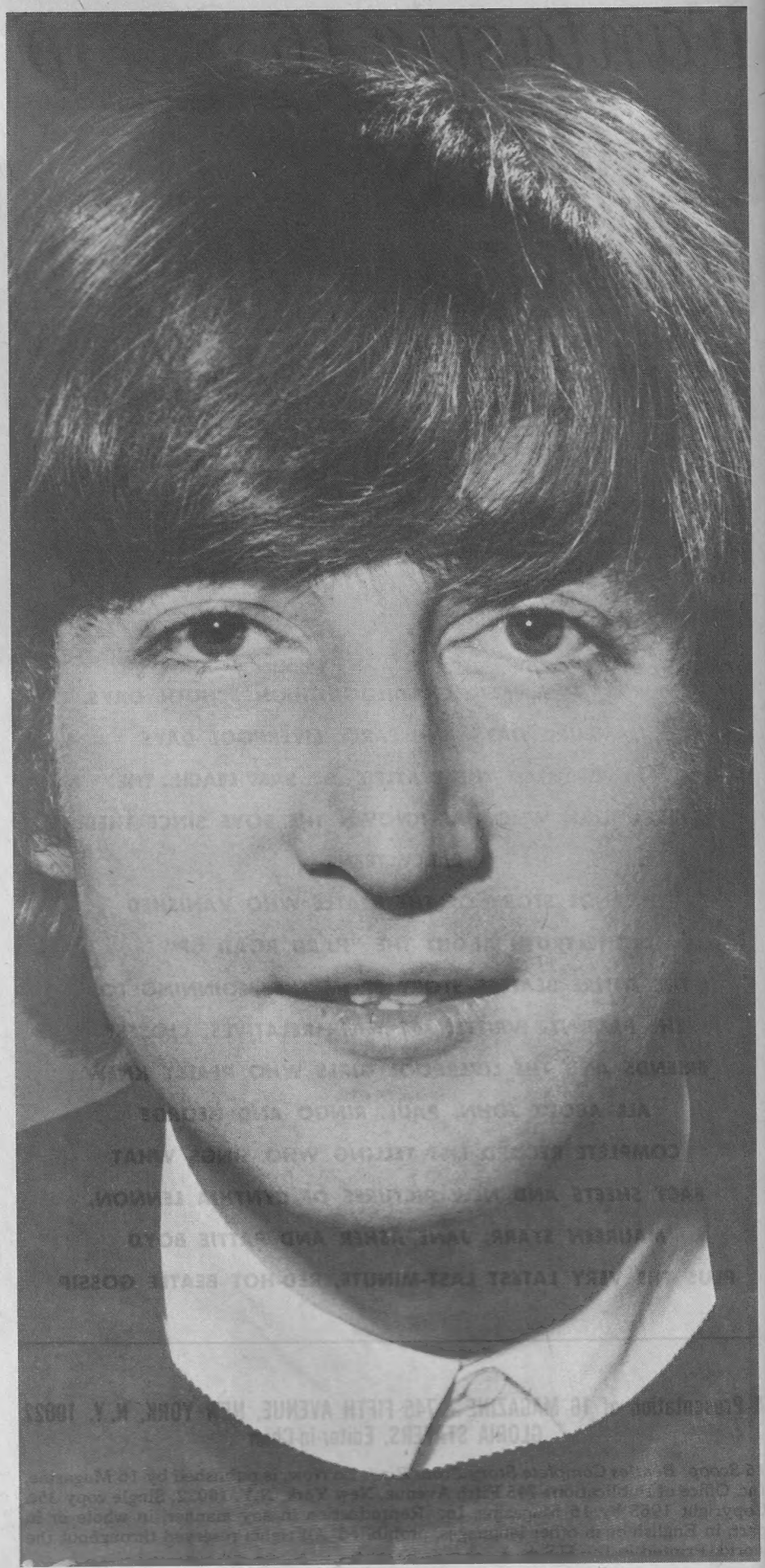
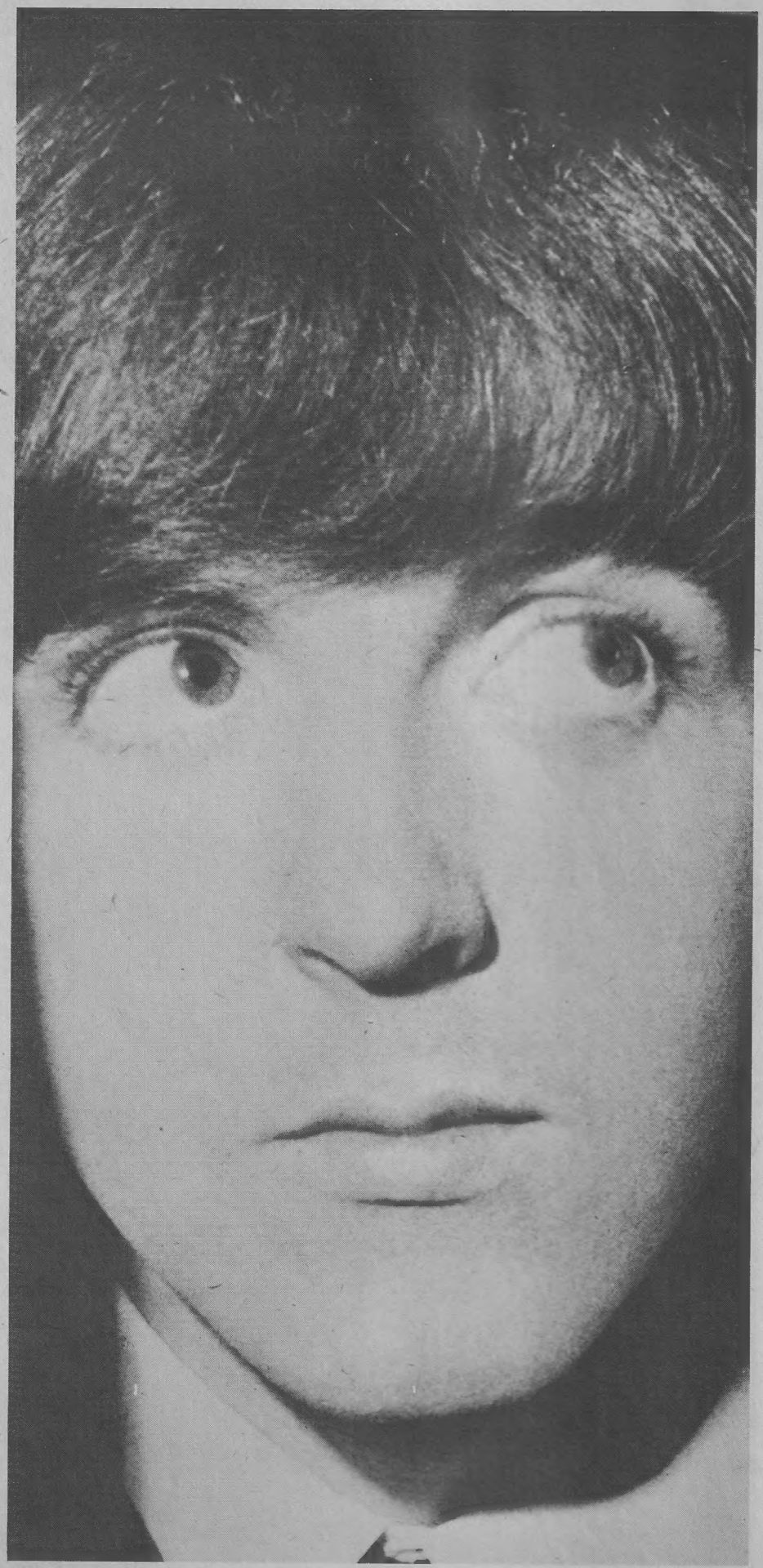
meet JOHN

John Winston Lennon was born October 9, 1940. He founded the original group in 1956. Deserted by father in childhood. Mother killed in traffic accident when John was 14. Spent teen years with his Aunt Mimi. Married fellow art student, Cynthia Powell (who is two years younger than John) in Liverpool on August 23, 1962. Their son John Charles Julian was born on April 8, 1963. With Paul, John composes songs for Beatles, Peter and Gordon, Cilla Black, Billy J. Kramer, Rolling Stones, etc. His second humorous book, A Spaniard in the Works, was just published. John and Cyn live in a Tudor-style mansion at St. George's Hill, Weybridge, Surrey, England.



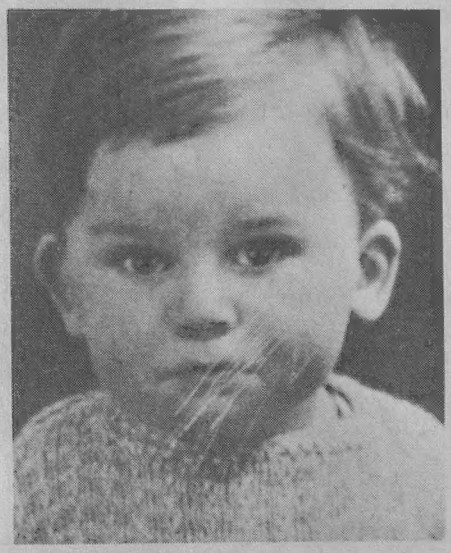
meet PAUL

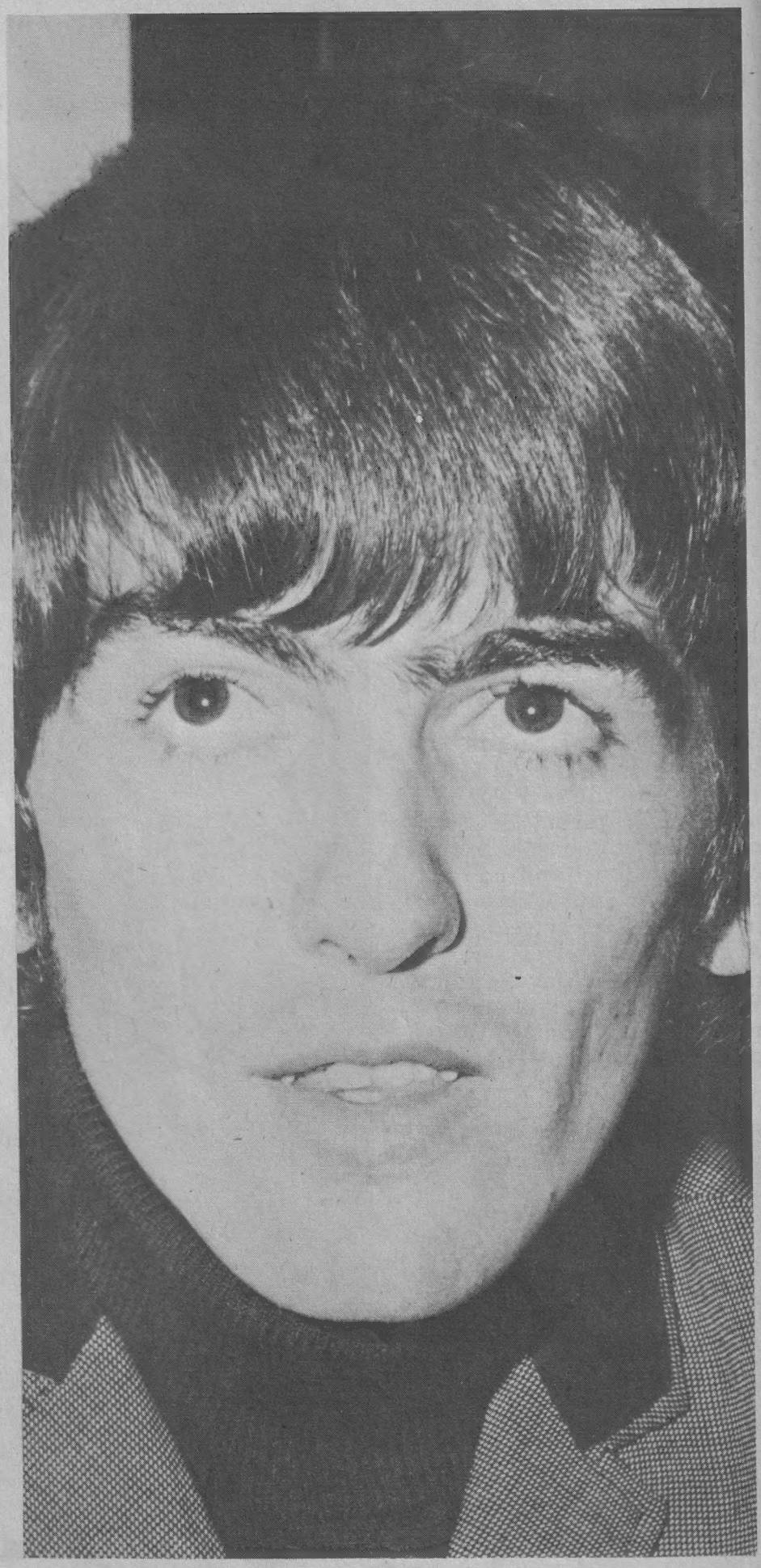
James Paul McCartney was born June 18, 1942. Mother died when Paul was in his teens. Father remarried a 35-year-old Liverpool widow (who has a five-year-old daughter) in November and now lives in a large luxurious house Paul has bought in Wirral outside Liverpool. Paul's younger brother Mike is an up-and-coming comedy star. Paul has been dating red-haired actress Jane Asher since they met after a radio show on May 9, 1963. When in London, he often stays with her parents at 57 Wimpole Street, London, W.1.



meet GEORGE

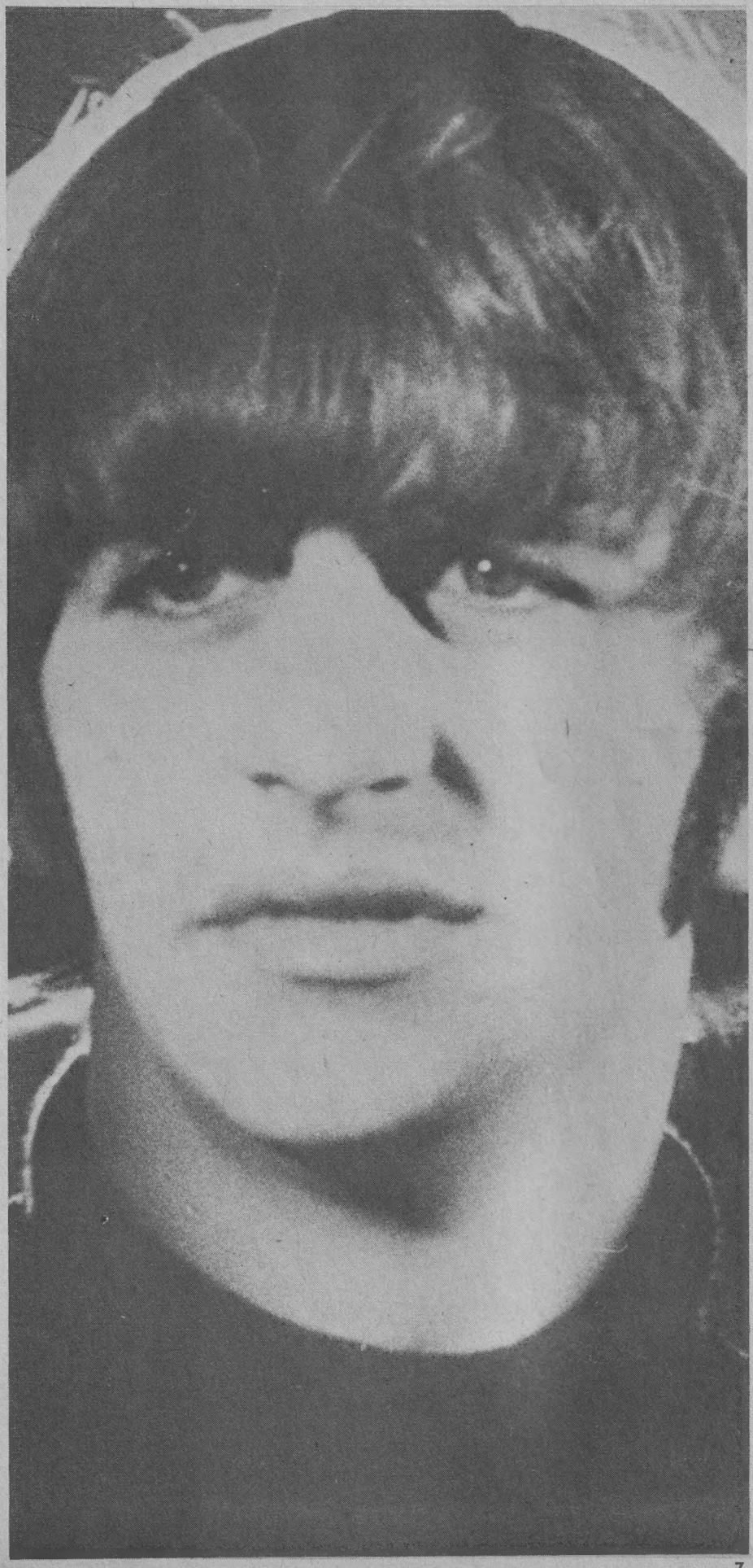
George Harrison was born February 25, 1943. He has two older brothers, Peter and Harry, and a sister, Louise. Went to same junior school as John Lennon, and same High School as Paul McCartney. Has been dating model Pattie Boyd since they met on the film set of A Hard Day's Night. George has a $50,000 bungalow ten minutes away from John Lennon's house at Fairmile Estate, Esher, Surrey, England. George recently signed a 3-year contract to compose for Northern Music, a company founded by John, Paul and manager, Brian Epstein.





meet RINGO

Richard Starkey was born July 7, 1940. He joined the Beatles in 1962 after their previous drummer, Pete Best, had been dropped. As Ringo Starr, he formerly played with Rory Storm and the Hurricanes, the group that started Liverpool's "beat boom". Was once engaged to a Liverpool girl, Geraldine McGovern. Started dating Cavern regular Maureen Cox three years ago. They were married at the London's registrar's office on February 11, 1965. The Starrs live in a large London flat, but are searching for a new home.



At the Beatles' first booking, near London, only 15 people showed up.

BIRTH OF THE BEATLES

by SAM LEACH

The road to success more often than not is long and bumpy. It took quite a while for the Beatles to win fortune's smile. Here's how it all came about.

On August 29th, 1958, in Liverpool, England, a wet, miserable evening, excited teenagers scurrying down a dimly-lit street talking in hushed whispers hoping to gain admission to the new music cellar being opened that night. Outside, a long queue straining to hear any sound from the dark basement. Inside, dimly-lit and stuffy, were beatniks, schoolgirls and oddly assorted characters eagerly awaiting the star attraction of the evening, the Quarrymen, a group who had already earned a big reputation in the then skiffle-mad city.

Four years later the Quarrymen were to become world-famous under a different name

There were transitional names — the Nurk Twins (John and Paul), Johnny and the Moon Dogs, Long John and the Silver Beatles, "The Silver Beatles", finally "The Beatles." The music cellar where the Quarrymen first worked was not the Cavern, but the Casbah situated in the West Derby suburb of Liverpool. There has been a popular misconception that the Cavern was the birthplace and home of the "big beat" scene, but this is not so. In fact, the Cavern did not promote rock groups until early 1961.

It was at about this time that I (as a music promoter) first met the Beatles, seeking new blood for the "Beat Industry." Prior to this, the boys had had only limited bookings at the Jacaranda and the Casbah in Liverpool, and many were skeptical of their ability to draw large attendances. There were rumors that five (John, Paul, George, Pete Best, and the late Stu Sutcliffe) comparative newcomers had driven the little German frauleins *mad in the "Mersey sound" satellite, Hamburg. On their return from Germany, promoter Brian Kelly persuaded the Beatles to play for modest bookings at Litherland Town Hall and Aintree Institute.*

First impressions of their untidy stage appearance were unfavorable, yet there was an uncanny attraction about them compelling one to listen to a wild cacophony of sound. They gave a fantastic non-stop show, each taking it in turn to sing. Paul had no sooner finished Tutti Frutti *than John stepped forward with* We're Gonna Dance In The Street Tonight, *which the unlucky kids who could not get in were doing anyway. George at that time sang comedy numbers. Big laugh of the performance was when Pete Best, who was then drummer, sang* Matchbox. *The quietest spot was during Stuart Sutcliffe's rendering of* Love Me Tender, *when the audience was hushed to silence. He was so shy, he invariably sang with*

Paul vocalizes at the Tower Ballroom in Liverpool.

George and John as they looked in earlier days.

his back to the audience.

The beat was not all the Beatles had, for when I went back stage to introduce myself their personalities made an immediate impact on me. They were restless, talking all the time, especially Paul. He was certainly a character, always clowning. They made such an impression that a note was made in the Booking diary right away, "Beatles." Less than a week later, they made their debut for me at the Liverpool Jazz Society. Soon, all Merseyside was shouting their acclaim.

In their early days, the Beatles seldom sang together. Instead, each member of the group, including the drummer, took it in turn to sing his own particular preference. Paul invariably chose a mixture of Little Richard and Ray Charles-type "rockers" and his own fantastic versions of rather quieter pop standards, Over The Ranbow *and* Besame Mucho. *John at one time modelled his singing on the fabulous Ben E. King, and one of John's best numbers was* Stand By Me. *George was always known for his comedy numbers, like Joe Brown's* Henry The Eighth. *It was while the Beatles were in Hamburg, in the summer of 1961, that they developed their present superb standard of close harmony, and this proved to be a major step in their quest for fame.*

Competition and rivalry amongst the various Liverpool groups was at that time exceptionally keen, yet friendly, almost like a game. All showed a maturity beyond their years in trying to help one another in the creation of a new sound. For instance, Ringo then with a rival group, was trying to teach George the rudiments of drumming.

If you wonder how the four ever managed to steal a few moments of leisure for the treadmill of success, they did have their lighter moments. Usually after lunchtime sessions they would relax with friends and fans in a daily get-together in the Grapes, a public house opposite the Cavern. All the top groups and personalities would gather every afternoon in the now famous pub and swap ideas and new numbers, generally taken from rare American LPs, which were hard to obtain in Liverpool.

About two years ago the Beatles were using an American set of amplifiers, which were wired differently to British models. One night they were appearing at an all-night session featuring ten top groups. There was a capacity crowd of over 1,000, and as a result the heat was really intense in the basement of the club, and at about 3 a.m. there was so much water dripping off the ceiling and walls that small pools were forming on the stage. The Beatles' amplifiers being rigged up in reverse, there was a great danger that they would be electrocuted if they stepped in the water, so they had to stand on the leather covers of the amplifiers to protect themselves. As usual, they gave an "electrifying" performance. Paul summed it up when he remarked after the show, "Thank goodness that's over, the heat was

Rory Storm warms up as a bearded Ringo thumps the drums.

shocking!"

There was another time when Paul and John went hitch-hiking down south to win a talent competition as "The British Everly Brothers." *On this particular trip, Paul and John actually slept all night in a damp ditch in order to economize, and they cooked their meals over an ancient primus stove. Little things like this make one realize just how much these boys deserve anything that comes their way today.*

In June, 1961, the boys had just returned from that happy slave pit, Hamburg, with a completely different act from that which they had before. Gone was raw, harsh, instrumental backing and separate vocals; in place was a tremendously well-rehearsed act, instrumentally superb. Vocally, they were now harmonizing as well as any of the top American singing groups. This without losing their dynamic revitalizing personalities. It was the beginning of something big—in fact the prototype of the now famous "Mersey Sound." At this stage, they still needed grooming and professionalizing, which was wonderfully performed by their present manager, Brian Epstein, who was to become the key figure in the careers of the Beatles.

The Beatles made an unforgettable debut at the Tower Ballroom, New Brighton, when they attracted the largest-ever attendance on Merseyside (over 4,000). On the same bill were Gerry and the Pacemakers. So great was the excitement

The Cavern.

Ringo's predecessor was Peter Best (center).

over this event that tickets were being sold at over three times their face value. The date — November 10, 1961.

Four young, quiet-looking boys preparing their equipment prior to the performance; teenage girls excitedly crowding around the stage, hoping to catch the eye of their particular "Beatle Idol." The proverbial calm before the storm, a storm which was to sweep around the world, stretching into every far-flung corner of our mighty globe. Then, a breathless count — one, two, three — and the four black-leather-jacketed young men crash into their first high-powered number, a former little Richard number, Oh, My Soul. *A tousle-haired Jack-in-the-Box called Paul McCartney led this fantastic, pulsating, soul-shattering vocal with every ounce of energy he possessed.*

Such happenings are commonplace at Beatle concerts nowadays, yet little did the show-business world, outside the all-enveloping "Mersey Smog," realize that less than a year later this sound, this atomic-powered foursome, would smash open once and for all the "Iron Curtain" against Northern Groups in London — and then the world.

At this point, this story might have reached an all too early conclusion, and The Beatles and The Mersey Sound might easily have faded into obscurity, doomed to finish their lives playing in dingy little cellars and halls in Liverpool's back streets, much to the delight, no doubt, of the many thousands of Merseyside Beat Fans — a great loss, however, to the rest of the world.

It is, however, very likely that the Beatles would never have left Liverpool had not a ray of sunshine shone upon these black-jacketed boys in the form of a man already wealthy, thanks to his family business — Brian Epstein, ("Eppi") to the groups that eventually formed his vast stable of talent.

Using the Beatles as an atomic-powered arm, he forced a breach in the London Blockade and eventually smashed down these long-standing barriers. It could be said that the Beatles had the same effect on these walls of London as Gabriel's horn on the walls of Jericho.

Now, Beatles have broken every existing record in show business. Even America, previously a formidable stumbling block for most British artists, became as putty in the young and capable hands of the Beatles.

Whatever people may think about the effect of the high-pressured life of show business on top entertainers, and how riches must change them, this does not apply to the Beatles. They will never forget their old friends and fans who helped them. They have paved the way for the floodtide of British groups who have swamped the British and American hit parades.

The Beatles have been proud of their Liverpool, which played such a large part in their apprenticeship. The Beatles determination to succeed is a natural gift, given to all natives of Liverpool, possibly to make up for the deficiencies of this sprawling monstrosity of a metropolis.

Here's looking at you. Some early pix of the boys. . . .

Taking off. George, John and Paul (with Peter Best on drums) swing away into the wild blue yonder with a rocking, socking rhythm in the Cavern—1961.

. . . and here's that bearded drummer-boy, Ringo.

Brian Epstein.

Ken Brown

THE BEATLE WHO VANISHED

by KEN BROWN

"I might still be with the Beatles—earning thousands of pounds a week. . . ." The personal story of the Beatle you never hear about—an original member of the group who wasn't there when fame and fortune beckoned to the Fab Foursome!

Sometimes I could kick myself — HARD! I could still be one of the Beatles — earning thousands of pounds a week, instead of living in a caravan (a trailer attached to my car).

I was with John, Paul and George the first time they played together at the Casbah. I knew John's wife Cynthia — in fact, I saw their romance blossom. I knew George's first girl-friend, Ruth Morrison. We shared everything — our music, and the 3 pounds a night we used to earn in those far-off days in August, 1958.

Now, my old 10-watt amplifier lies, a little tattered after six years, in a corner of my caravan. The Hofner guitar I played hangs on the wall, but I still play it for my wife, Marcia.

These are my only souvenirs, and I often think if it hadn't been for a row over a paltry 15 bob, ($2.00), I might still be with the Beatles.

The memories flood back . . . I was with the Beatles the day they were formed — quite by accident. It happened like this.

It was summer, 1958. The skiffle craze had finished, and George Harrison and I were playing in the Les Stewart Quartet with a chap called Skinner. We spent hours practicing in the Lowlands Club, Heyman's Green. We would probably have gone on playing at clubs but for George's girl friend, Ruth Morrison. George had never been really keen on girls. He was still only 16, and at Liverpool Institute with Paul McCartney. Later, he suddenly seemed to go head-over-heels for Ruth, who later moved to Birmingham to become a nurse. One evening the three of us were sitting in the Lowlands drinking coffee, moaning about the fact that we had nowhere regular to play, when Ruth suggested we see Mrs. Best at the Casbah. Mrs. Best promised that the Les Stewart Quartet would play at the club when it opened.

On the Saturday we were due to open, I went 'round to Les Stewart's house. George Harrison was sitting in the lounge, his Hofner guitar across his lap, idly plucking at the strings. The atmosphere seemed a bit tense.

"What's up?" I asked.

George looked down at his guitar, and said nothing. So I turned to Les. He looked daggers. "You've been missing practice," he said.

"I know," I replied, "but only so's we can have somewhere to play; I've spent hours working up the club."

"You've been getting paid for it," challenged Les.

"No, I haven't."

"Well, I'm not going to play there," said Les, as our argument got steadily more heated. I turned to George. "Look," I said, "the club opens tonight. We've spent months waiting for this — you're not backing out, too?"

George thought for a moment. Then he told me that he would go on with me, so we left Les at his house.

As we were walking down the road, I turned to George

and said: "We can't let Mrs. Best down now Let's try and get a group together ourselves. Do you know anyone?"

"There's two mates I sometimes play with out at Speke," ventured George.

"O.K., let's ask them," I said, and George went off on the bus, joining me two hours later at the Casbah with his two mates — John Lennon and Paul McCartney.

This was the first time I had met them. Paul was 15, still at school, and had a schoolboyish haircut. But John was a bit of a beatnik, with his hair hanging over his collar, dressed in a check suit and old jeans. I told them we would each be paid 15 bob a night. They seemed glad about that; most groups played just for experience.

We talked over various names to call ourselves, and finally settled on the Quarrymen, a name John had used once or twice before for skiffle groups he had formed since leaving Quarrybank Grammar School. So, that night the Beatles were born — and the Casbah opened after all. We went down great particularly when Paul sang Long Tall Sally.

Our most popular numbers were John and Paul's vocals (I was the rhythm guitarist). John' pet solo was Three Cool Cats, *which he used to growl into the mike.*

John was always very quiet. He was a lonely youngster, seldom talking about his family — maybe because his father had deserted him in childhood, and then his mother had been killed by a police car. John seemed in need of affection, and depended on Cynthia, the girl he later married.

For nine months, we played together at the Casbah. Then one night, just as were due to start a Saturday session, I felt a crippling pain in my leg.

I could barely stand, but insisted on doing something, so Mrs. Best asked me to take the money at the door — and, for the first time, John, Paul and George played without me.

Just as everyone was going home, I was sitting in the club when Paul came back down the steps. "Hey, Ken, what's all this?" he said.

"What?" I asked him.

Mrs. Best says she's paying you, even though you didn't play with us tonight."

"That's up to her," I replied, as Paul bounded back up the stairs, still arguing over it with Mrs. Best.

They all came downstairs to me. "We think your 15 bob should be divided between us, as you didn't play tonight," said Paul.

"That's up to Mrs. Best," I said as the argument continued. By this time, we were all shouting. And Mrs. Best insisted on paying me the 15 bob.

"All right, that's it then!" shouted Paul, and they stormed off down the drive towards West Derby village, shouting that they would never play at the Casbah again. But that wasn't the last time I saw them — or the last time they played at the Casbah — though we didn't play together again.

The last time I saw the Beatles was on March 16, 1963. I had moved to London and married Marcia. The telephone rang and it was Neil Aspinall, the Beatles' road manager. He told me the boys were in a bit of a jam; they had run out of money; the next night they were due to appear in Sheffield; unless someone helped them out, they would have to sleep in the van. Neil wondered if I would lend them $50. Eventually, I agreed, and they all turned up at our flat. Neil came to the door, then Marcia and I went down to the van to see the boys. I handed over the money, which they repaid me six weeks later.

I told them we were moving into a caravan. "Great," said Paul. "We'll all drop in to see you one night." And they drove off.

An early photo of Paul, John and George in Liverpool.

Another early shot of the three boys behind George's old home.
Paul and John were still in high school when this pix was taken.

Again at the Top Ten in Hamburg. Paul would play the piano and sing in those days.

THE HARD ROAD UP

How the Beatles climbed the milky way to stardom.

After splitting with Ken Brown, the Quarrymen barely hung together. By early 1959, dates were scarce—though John, Paul and George still rehearsed together. All three of them felt their sound needed a little depth, which was how Stuart Sutcliffe came to join them.

He could play no instruments, but was talented enough as an artist to sell his paintings and buy a bass guitar — and that was a good enough start.

They needed a drummer, too. But that was a problem; drum equipment was expensive — so anyone with the gear was given a chance to join in. There were many drummers, but few lasted long.

After a lot of disappointments, things took a turn for the better. Alan Williams— now owner of the Blue Angel Club, late-night venue for all Liverpool's young beat musicians — became the Beatles' manager.

He started booking them for many Merseyside beat shows, and through an arrangement with Larry Parnes secured their first tour: A fortnight in Scotland, backing Johnny Gentle for 15 pounds a week each.

Gentle, now one of the Viscounts, remembers the tour well:

At first, I wondered what on earth Parnes had sent me," he recalls. "They arrived in Jeans and sweaters— the roughest bunch of lads I had seen in my life.

"John and Stu were both at art college, and looked it. Their hair fell over their collars, and Stu sported a beard. George was then serving an apprenticeship, and looked neat — as did Paul, who was still at school studying for his A-levels.

"John told me excitedly: 'This is our big break — we've been waiting for this.'

"Every night, we were booked for different dance halls in Scotland, though we stayed in Inverness. Some of the girls didn't like the Beatles much, and complained to the promoter that they were no good. At the end of the first week, he wanted to sack them and use a local group instead.

"John was down-hearted. 'We thought this was really going to be our big break,' he said despondently.

"They all seemed so upset that I felt sorry for them, and we had a work-out in the hotel bar at Inverness, trying out all my numbers over and over again until we got the right sound. That night, after we had finished our show, a girl came up to the boys and asked them for their autographs. John just couldn't believe it, and the others were thrilled."

The next big break was the Beatles' first trip to Hamburg. Alan Williams was auditioning groups for Germany, and suggested the Beatles.

"But you'll have to get a drummer," he said. And that was where Pete Best came into the picture.

With Ken Brown, he had formed the Blackjacks, who played regularly at his mother's club, the Casbah. Ken remembers: "I was sitting in the kitchen with Mrs. Best and Pete, having a cup of tea, when the boys arrived all excited — and asked to have a word with Pete. He went outside with them.

"I sat there, not very bothered. After all, Pete and I had built up a good group. Then Mrs. Best came in and said John, Paul, George and Stu had asked Pete to go to Hambrug with them as their drummer. She told me

Getting ready to go on at Hamburg's Top Ten in 1960: Peter Best is at left on the drums and Stu Sutcliffe appeared at right.

they had been offered this season at the Indra, and said it was too good an opportunity for Pete to miss. I agreed."

The very next day, the Beatles left for Hambrug.

The Indra was on the Reeperbahn, the Soho of Hamburg. Late at night, the clubs were packed, but the police had one strict rule: everyone under 18 had to be out by 10 p.m.

After complains that this rule was not being observed, the police closed the Indra and the Beatles moved to the Kaiserkeller, just along the street. The Beatles' Hamburg adventure ended when the police discovered that George was only 17 and John had no work permit.

All four Beatles were sent home to England — though Stu, who had fallen in love with a German girl, stayed behind. He later died a tragic death.

Back home in Liverpool, the boys were dispirited. Without Stu, they felt the group could not continue. But for the encouragement of three people — Mrs. Best, Neil Aspinall and Bob Wooler — the Beatles would have been no more.

While they were in Hamburg, the Casbah had been gaining in popularity. Here, thought Mrs. Best, was their chance to regain their confidence. She booked them for December 23, 1960, while Neil — training to be a chartered accountant — drew up posters, billing the Beatles as "DIRECT FROM HAMBURG."

Four nights later, Bob Wooler presented them at Litherland Town Hall. Neil was standing at the back of the hall as Pete set up his drums, and Paul, George and John tuned their guitars. Suddenly, Paul launched into Long Tall Sally *— and the audience went wild, storming the stage.*

"None of us had ever seen anything like that before," said Neil. "It was as if they had happened overnight." From that night on, the Beatles were Liverpool's top group. They were on the way to world conquest!

George backs Johnny Gentle in Glasgow, Scotland.

THE BEATLES
Complete and True Story
As TOLD to YOU by those WHO know them BEST....
THEIR RELATIVES, CLOSEST FRIENDS and the GIRLS in their lives

"Darling Vi. We are all missing you so much, you will never know. To caress your teeth once more would be just heaven. Also to hold your lungs in mine and drink TB. John sends you all his lunch, also Paul and Ring-worm too. Love George."

THIS WAS the strange message that dropped through a letter box in Broadgreen Road, Liverpool, just a few weeks ago. But when Mrs. Vi Caldwell (mother of Rory Storm) picked up the postcard from her door mat, she just chuckled. It was those Beatles again! Another joke—another card from the four Liverpool lads who have remained her friends since before they started barn-storming the world pop charts.

Very few people are as close as this to the Beatles, who have many acquaintances but few close friends. But Mrs. Caldwell is specially dear to John, Paul, George and Ringo. She spurred them on when they felt down-hearted in the old days—even after Ringo left the Hurricanes, the group led by her son, Rory Storm. Many were the times that the four boys dropped in late at night, flopping into chairs, drinking cup after cup of tea and chatting into the early hours of the dawn.

"Ringo was very quiet," Mrs. Caldwell recalls. "He could be depressing. Just sat in a chair, not saying a word all evening, and stared with those sad eyes of his. People are always pointing out his big nose nowadays, but you didn't notice it then because he had his hair swept back. It's only since it has been combed forward that his nose has stood out.

"He always looked so small, though. One day he bought this big Vanguard car—and had to put a cushion on the driving seat before he could see out of the window!"

It is only friends like Mrs. Caldwell, school chums, and their families who are really close to the Beatles—who are stranded now in an artificial world where fame and friendship often depend upon the success of your latest record.

People like Harry Harrison, George's older brother, and golf professional Nigel Whalley, their first manager, are still welcome guests at all the Beatles' homes. Perhaps John's closest friend still is Nigel, who now lives only a few miles from John's luurious $60,000 Weybridge mansion. Back home in Liver-

John as a baby. Aunt Mimi gave most of his childhood pictures to Cynthia when she and John were married.

Ringo with a nurse and another patient during one of his long sojourns in a hospital.

George, right, with his older brother. His brother is holding a little bird. Note George's blondish hair.

pool, their back gardens almost touched. Nigel can remember many Saturday afternoons when young Lennon would walk timidly up the garden path to ask, "Can Nige come out to play?"

John was always a bit nervous about that because Nigel's father was Chief Supt. Harold Whalley, head of Liverpool Police "A" Division—a stern man who once advised John and Paul to "give up all that skiffle nonsense and get your hair cut." (He now admits he was wrong!)

"John and I started playing around together when we were only four or five years old," Nigel recalls. "We went to different schools, but lived close to each other. We were all tearaways in those days, but John was very different from what he is now; he was not so bitter and cynical.

"He even used to sing in the choir at our local church, St. Peter's, with another member of his first group, Pete Shotton. On our way to Sunday School, his mother always gave him tuppence to put in the collection plate. But John always spent one of his pennies on bubble gum! The Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Clark, didn't like us at all, and neither did the choir master. We didn't last very long after he discovered that John and the rest of us had been eating the grapes left to decorate the church for Harvest Festival!"

Another of John's pranks was to hang around the Penny Lane bus terminal, waiting for people leaving for work to jump aboard for the trip into Liverpool. With all seats full, young Lennon would leap on the platform and shout in a deep, official voice: "All change, please!" And then laugh at the confusion as everyone scrambled down the stairs!

John was one of the wildest boys in the neighborhood, and his friends all realized it was because of his unhappiness at home. His father, Alf, had deserted the family when John was three, and John leaned heavily upon his mother, Julia. Nigel remembers her very well: "She was one of the happiest women I have ever known. Always full of fun. She encouraged John to take up music, and chivvied him on. He was seldom allowed to watch television, but instead was encouraged to paint and learn the guitar.

"When she died, John's world just about fell to pieces. I know, because I saw the accident happen. I saw his mother killed, and later had to give evidence at the inquest. I can remember the day so well. It's one of those terrible things that engraves itself on your memory forever.

"It was in July, 1958. John and I were going out together, and I called 'round for him just as his mother was going out of the door to do some shopping. We said a few words to each other, and then she crossed the road to catch a bus. I was just about to knock on the door for John when I heard a scream of brakes. Quickly, I turned and I saw someone flying up in the air. I ran across the verge. It was John's mother, just lying in the road, not moving. It was horrible. She had been hit by a car, driven by an off-

Photo courtesy George Harrison, Liverpool Echo.

George playing a borrowed guitar in his backyard. He was 13.

John (second from right) cavorts with friends in Liverpool. He was about 15.

duty policeman, and she died in the ambulance on her way to the hospital. It choked me to think that I was the last person ever to have spoken to her.

"The tragedy had a terrible effect on John. He felt so lonely after this, with no father to fall back on. He was always very bitter about that. Nowadays, he'll just refer to him as 'Ignoble Alf'—almost treating him as a joke. But deep down he almost hates his father. I certainly don't blame him."

After the accident, John's Aunt Mimi looked after him, but friends soon noticed his character changing. His attitudes hardened. His humor became more weird. Nigel recalls: "One evening, John invited us to his mother's old house at Allerton. A number of us went, and all sat down round a circular table. John said we were going to hold a seance, and switched the lights down low, spread letter cards round the table, and began to rotate his hand round the top of the tumbler. It started to move, and spell out words.

"We sat there terrified, but John seemed quite calm; almost unmoved. And to this day I don't know whether there was a spirit there that night or if John was just having us on!"

John's attitude towards people changed, too. He became cutting in his use of words, often wounding people with a savage turn of phrase—not caring who they were.

Nigel remembers: "One day we were picked up by the police. There were six of us playing golf on the links at Allerton, without permission, when a squad of police suddenly came bearing down on us. We were lined up against a wall, while the policemen searched us. But John was not in the least worried. 'Better watch it,' he warned. 'My Dad's a copper!' "

GEORGE WAS A HAPPY CHILD

This feeling of loneliness drew John closer to Paul, a friend since their first meeting at a village fete in Woolton, Liverpool, in June, 1955. Paul's mother had died suddenly in October, 1956—and, with John now lonelier than ever, they became like brothers.

*George, who started playing with them in August, 1958—at the opening night of the Casbah Club, Heyman's Green—had never known this sort of grief. His was always a poor but complete and happy family. His parents' only real worries were one holiday when George had to be rushed into a hospital with a stomach complaint—*and *trying to persuade him to cut his hair.*

At the Liverpool Institute, where he and Paul were both at school, George's long hair used to fall over his collar, annoying his mother who was constantly urging him to have it cut.

Paul, John, Peter Best and George in a solemn pose at the Cavern in 1961.

The Cavern today. Over 500 teeners have been known to line up for a lunchtime session, lasting from 1 to 4 P.M.

The Liverpool College of Art, where John studied. Down the street is the Liverpool Institute High School, where Paul and George studied.

John and friend.

Ringo (right) crashes into a picture being taken of dancers on the floor of the Tower ballroom, 1961.

Backstage at the Tower: John (left) and Paul's brother Mike mug for the camera.

Living it up in the van: Paul took this picture — John and George are in the center.

Beatlemania begins at the Cavern. Looking at you: John, Paul and Gorge.

"It used to be a thick, unruly mop—with George's school cap balancing on top," Mrs. Louise Harrison remembers with a smile. "We had some trouble with his trousers, too. George wanted them narrow, but the school wouldn't allow that so he cut a piece out of his trousers himself, and then sewed them up again. He also went through a fad of wearing a yellow waistcoat under his school blazer. George was never afraid of being odd man out. He rather thrived on it."

She was talking in the lounge of their semi-detached home in Woolton, Liverpool. Fan mail from all round the world was stacked on every available chair, waiting for George to come home.

That holiday illness, referred to earlier, was perhaps the most worrying incident in George's childhood. While swimming with his family at Inverness, he was suddenly seized with stomach pains. A doctor was called and George was ordered into a hospital. An ambulance arrived with two stretcher bearers, but George was adamant. "I'm not going on that," he said bluntly—and walked out of the hotel, with the stretcher men in procession behind.

In hospital, George was hardly a model patient. He was not allowed any salt with the food, which he hated —so much so that he wrapped one meal in a brown paper bag and threw it out of a window when no one was looking. Unfortunately, the matron happened to be passing underneath at precisely that moment and caught the parcel right on top of her head! She strode purposefully up the stairs and into George's ward, only to find him apparently fast asleep.

"He was the first person I have ever seen smiling that broadly in his sleep," she said dryly to his parents afterwards.

On the whole, though, George had an untroubled childhood; his greatest anxiety was raising money to buy guitars.

John, however, became more and more rebellious after his mother's death—and finally decided to leave the home he shared with his Aunt Mimi. As a 19-year-old art student, he had only a grant to live on. But that was no obstacle to John. Returning home one evening from the Liverpool College of Art, he announced, "I'm leaving, Mimi. Everyone else at college lives in flats, and I feel a baby living at home!"

Mimi was too wily—and knew John too well—to try to put obstacles in his way.

"All right then, John," she said patiently. "If that's what you want, you leave home."

Paul pretends to be conked out, while George, John and Peter Best pay their "last respects."

The first sight you see when you emerge from the alleyway in front of the Cavern is NEMS store, where Brian Epstein used to run the record department.

"It is," answered John rather petulantly, "and anyhow, I can't stand your food!"

That was too much. "And what's wrong with it?" roared Mimi. "You've managed all right in the past. What are you going to eat if you live in a flat?"

"Chinese food," explained John, very self-confidently, as he went upstairs to pack his bags and get ready to move into a flat with four friends in Gambia Terrace in the heart of Liverpool.

Mimi gave him his full term's money, telling him that was to cover his paints, fees and everything else. "And you'll get no more," she warned, as John left the house.

Three weeks passed without any sign of John. No telephone calls. No letters. No postcards. Nothing. Then one evening he suddenly returned. "I'm just cooking a meal; would you like something?" asked Mimi.

"No, thanks," replied John, obviously hiding something, but a little too embarrassed to come right out with it. "Anyhow, I've told you. I can't stand your food. We eat at the Chinese places. Bamboo shoots and things." And he left.

Another silent week passed before John reappeared again. This time he came in and settled quietly into a chair.

"He sat in the dining room," remembers Mimi. "I was cooking a meal. Steak and mushrooms. But this time I was determined not to ask him if he wanted any. John said very little. Jut sat there, watching me lay the table. I could see that he hadn't been eating. He was hungry, but his pride just wouldn't let him ask a favor."

By this time the smell of cooking was wafting through the house.

"Don't I get a cup of tea, then?" said John, doing his best to appear nonchalant. But he was so hungry that he couldn't even drink it. He just suddenly burst into the kitchen. "I'll have you know, woman, I'm starving," he bellowed.

Trying hard not to laugh, Mimi calmly laid another place at the table. John wolfed down her food this time. Afterwards, he sat quietly by the fire. Mimi kept reminding him that if he didn't hurry up, he'd miss the last bus. But John seemed in no hurry to go, and she sensed there was still something preying on his mind. "O.K. if I stay the night?" he asked.

"Sure," said Mimi.

Next morning John was a little meeker and the truth came tumbling out. He was in debt. He had spent all his money, and was behind with the rent. Living on Chinese food was too expensive for his pocket!

"But I gave you a full term's money only three week's ago," said Mimi.

"I know," roared John, never one to be on the defensive for long. "But it's gone. Don't ask me where, because I don't know. It's just gone!"

"I paid his rent for him—but made him mow the lawn for it!" laughed Mimi.

An early shot of Ringo, George, John and Paul.

The boys pose with their luxurious equipment.

On the wall at her house are several paintings, including a water color landscape John painted at the age of eleven.

"I have to take it down every time he comes," she said. "He is always saying that I should throw it away. But immediately he goes, I stick it back up on the wall."

One printing firm wanted to buy the picture to use on the front of a Christmas card, but John refused.

Although a keen art student (he and Cynthia are members of the Contemporary Arts Society), John was not on the best of terms with his college teacher. Early one morning, Mimi heard sounds coming from the lounge. It was still dark, She looked at her watch. It was three o'clock, so she crept down the stairs to find all the lights on and John busily painting away.

"It's got to be ready for the morning," he explained to an irate Mimi. So she sat down in her dressing gown to watch him finish the picture. When he had daubed enough paint on the canvas, John went into the kitchen and returned with the salt and pepper pots—and sprinkled their contents all over the wet canvas! Mimi watched in amazement as John then returned to the kitchen to fetch a bowl of sugar, which he threw all over the painting.

"What on earth are you doing?" gasped Mimi. "You'll get yourself thrown out of college!"

"Look," said John. "The art teacher hates me, and I'm not very fond of him!"

In the morning, Mimi tried to stop John from taking the painting with him to college. There was a tug-of-war in the driveway before he finally stalked away with it under his arm. All day Mimi was restless—convinced that John would be expelled. But that night John arrived back triumphant.

"Never said a thing," he told Mimi. "He just looked at it and walked away; he knew *why I had done it!"*

RINGO'S EARLY YEARS

As a child, Ringo was frequently in and out of hospital. Even now he is not physically strong, which is why he has never been a keen sportsman.

Once, however, he decided to learn to swim—and that nearly cost Ringo his life. This was while Ringo

The Beatles received their first award in December 1960. They were voted Liverpool's Number One Group and received a shield presented by Bill Harry.

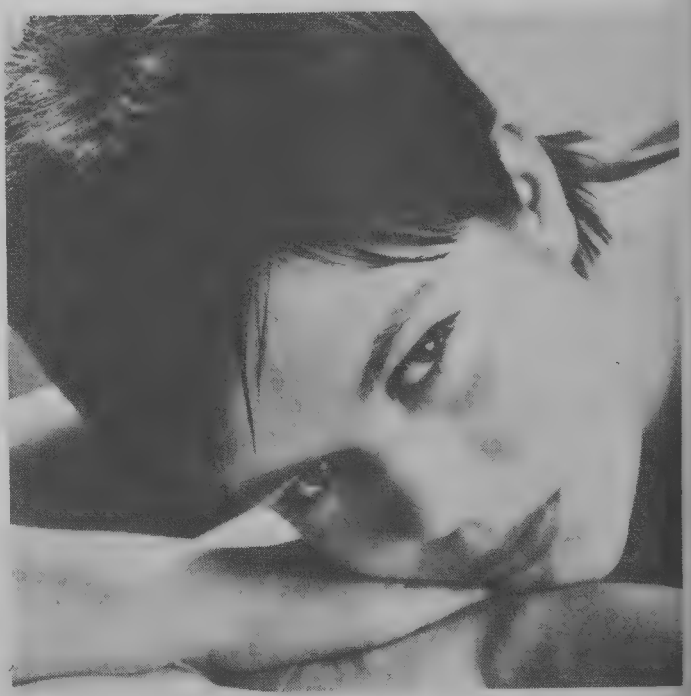
was still with Rory Storm and the Hurricanes, and they were working a summer season at Butlin's, a holiday camp in Pwellhi, North Wales.

Rory, a qualified swimming instructor, persuaded Ringo to take the plunge—and he seemed to be doing quite well, so Rory decided to teach him underwater swimming, too. Somehow, the two became separated. Ringo panicked. Suddenly, Rory heard terrified shouts for help. Looking across the water, he saw Ringo spluttering and waving his arms as his head sank underneath the water.

Rory reached him just as he was going under for the third time, and dragged him out. Ringo had swallowed a lot of water, and was thoroughly shaken. It was a long time before he went swimming again.

Ringo had never been healthy as a child, and three times the doctors thought he was going to die. Even now he carries a terrible scar across his stomach, following a childhood operation for peritonitis, a deadly illness. But Ringo never makes any fuss about this. His long-time friend, Mrs. Vi Caldwell, remembers that one evening they were all sitting together in the lounge when Rory said, "Show Mom your scar, Ringo."

Like a child showing off a new toy, Ringo pulled his shirt up out of his trousers to reveal a large blue line across his stomach.



Paula Bennett

With Brian Epstein.

"Ringo was always my favorite," confesses Mrs. Caldwell. "Such marvelous eyes. So full of feeling. So sympathetic. But all the boys were very kind, and we still joke about those early days.

"One of the funniest things was Paul and his ciggies. They never had any money and were always scrounging cigarettes. Paul is still just as bad. Never seems to have a pack of his own! John always ribs him about that."

In the early days, the Beatles often used to take their girl friends around with them in their old blue van, with Neil Aspinall at the wheel. Sometimes, they would all call in to see Mrs. Caldwell.

"Paul was dating a girl called Dot. Very quiet, she was. I think he was going around with her for about two years. And George used to bring along his steady girl friend, Jean.

"Then one night George suddenly said: 'I finished with Jean last night.' Paul looked surprised. 'Funny, I finished with Dot as well,' he said. And that was the last I heard of Jean and Dot."

In those days, the Beatles were never secretive about girl friends—though they tried to keep John's marriage to his fellow art student, Cynthia Powell, quiet—concealing it even from their closest friends.

Mrs. Caldwell remembers: "They used to deny it to everyone, including me. One night I mentioned that a friend had seen someone very like John at the Register Office. Paul bounded out of his chair and paced the room, saying angrily, 'He's not married. We keep telling you he's not.'"

John's marriage caused many headaches for his Aunt Mimi, too.

"They both came here to live," said Mimi, "and stayed until quite a long time after the baby was born. Fans were always hanging around, even when the rain was pouring down. They would sit on the doorstep until the early hours of the morning sometimes. Some girls would even creep round the back of the house, and we would suddenly realize someone was watching us through the window.

"I had to keep our curtains down whenever John was home. His only way out of the house was for me to go to the front door and talk to the girls while he ran out of the back, over the fence, and through a neighbor's garden.

"It was amazing, really, that the kids never tumbled to it that John was married, because they saw Cynthia coming in and out. Later, we even put their baby's pram in the back garden. But those fans never put two and two together.

"Later on, though, there were plenty of rumors flying about. Often girls would come to the door in tears and ask, 'Is it true?' I always said, 'If it is, John will get an earful from me about it!'"

Before marrying Cynthia, John had had several girl friends—including one called Barbara, whom he dated for nearly two years. George, Paul and Ringo also played the field before Pattie Boyd, Jean Asher and Maureen Cox broke millions of girls' hearts. After they became famous, though, it grew difficult to date girls without embarrassing them with unwelcome

Ringo and George gag it up on the *Eamon Andrews Show*.

George gives Ringo's fake beard a *tug!*

publicity.

One friend, a 24-year-old blonde London typist, Paula Bennett, who went out with Ringo several times, told how tense he was one night when they went to the now-famous Ad Lib Club in London.

Descending from the top-story club above the Prince Charles Theatre, Ringo stood in a corner of the elevator, his coat collar partly covering his face. Paula stood with her back to him in the opposite corner.

"Ringo said he always had to do this in case anyone recognized him and saw he was with a girl," recalls Paula.

Paula, a former student at London University, added, "Ringo told me the other Beatles had the same trouble of trying to avoid being seen with girls. Partly, it was because they wanted to avoid publicity. Partly, they tried to protect their girl friends from the press."

But it was not always like this. Before they became famous, the Beatles were able to date girls regularly, without having to worry about prying cameras. Their favorite girls would travel from ballroom to ballroom in their van, and many are still very loyal to the Beatles, refusing to say anything that might embarrass the group.

In the Jacaranda coffee bar on Slater Street in Liverpool, where the Beatles used to play regularly in 1960 and 1961, two of their former girl friends, blondes Pat Davis and Ann Kay, now work as waitresses.

With Eamon Andrews of British ABC-TV.

Ann remembers: "It was the Beatles who first brought us to the Jacaranda. They were always here in those days. It was their second home. They used to sit around drinking cups of tea in between sessions in the basement. But in those days they had no microphones or expensive equipment. Girls in the audience used to take turns to hold up mikes—just the headpieces tied to broomsticks.

"There were four of us who used to go round with the Beatles—Pat, Louie Steel, Linda Robinson and myself. We were crazy about all four of them, particularly Paul. He had a kind, gentle way with him, and sent us all lovely Christmas cards. He was the only one of the Beatles who would dance, and in between sessions at the different halls and clubs he would come down on to the floor and join in dancing with us. He was smashing.

"Nearly every night, the boys took us about in their van. To Preston one night, then Whitchurch another —and to all the places they used to play in Liverpool, like Aintree Institute and so on."

Ann still sees the Beatles occasionally. She went to their Wigan concert last autumn and was welcomed backstage by Paul, who immediately took her to meet John, George and Ringo.

"They were just the same as they always were—ever so friendly. And so funny," said Ann.

It was another of the girls the Beatles have left behind who first brought them together in August, 1958. Her name is Ruth Morrison. She is now a nurse in Birmingham. Her boy friend used to be George Harrison, then playing in another group with guitarist Ken Brown, who is now a milkman in Tottenham, north London. The three of them were chatting one night in the Lowlands coffee bar on Heyman's Green—miserable because they had nowhere to play —when Ruth mentioned that a Mrs. Best was opening a new club. (This was Peter Best's Mum.)

Ken arranged for his *group to appear on the opening night. But they had a row, and a new group— John, Paul, George and Ken played there instead.*

"That was how the Beatles started. It was the first night George had played with them," Ken recalls.

He remembers that Paul was not very interested in girls. He took one or two to the pictures, but that was all. George was the same. Ruth was crazy over him, but he did not bother much about her.

Ken did not know Ringo Starr in those days, and neither did the other Beatles. Ringo was also just starting out with his first group, the Cadillacs. Ringo,

BEA

too, was shy of girls—though he later became engaged to Geraldine McGovern, whose parents live at 82A, Kent Gardens, Liverpool.

Her father recalls, "Richie used to be round here all the time in those days. He and Geraldine were very close, but they broke up some time before the Beatles became famous. My daughter has now gone to stay with relatives in the United States, and I hope she stays there. Since it became known that she had been Richie's fiancee, the national papers have been hounding her to death."

Embarrassing publicity of this sort is something the Beatles have constantly tried to avoid; they all take great pains to keep their private lives private. *But one girl who knows what it feels like to be out with a Beatle is Paul Bennett; she knows how it is to be afraid that at any moment a camera bulb may flash.*

Paula first met Ringo at the Blue Angel Club, Liverpool, nearly two years ago, and they saw each other a number of times afterwards—exchanging photographs and letters—until Ringo started going steady with Maureen Cox, whom he eventually married.

"Ringo is wonderful fun to be with; so gay, with a tremendous sense of humor," Paula says. "But, like all the Beatles, he was afraid the press would jump to the wrong conclusions if he was seen with a girl. When we first met, it was different. The Beatles were not so well known and Ringo could just drop into the Blue Angel for a quiet drink whenever he wanted to. But that night at the Ad Lib Club he was worried stiff in case any journalist saw us together.

"It was late in the evening, and Ringo offered to drop me off on his way home. But when we went down in the elevator, he insisted on turning away in a corner with his coat collar pulled up over his face in case anyone recognized us. It was terribly funny, really. When we reached the bottom, he waited in a doorway—still with his collar up—and asked me to go down the street and find a taxi. Then I had to ask the driver to pull up slowly outside the Ad Lib while I held the door open so that Ringo could suddenly dash into the cab without anyone realizing it was him.

"I laughed about it at the time, but he told me that the Beatles always had to do this to avoid being harrassed by the press."

But this is a worry that Paul, Ruth, Geraldine, Pat, Ann, Louie and Linda will never have to share again.

For they are the girls the Beatles left behind.

PAUL AND JANE

Fans never worried about the Beatles having girl friends, but the hysteria noticeably started to flag when they realized all four were attached.

The hysteria had started with Please Please Me, *and this was why Paul was so secretive when he first met Jane Asher—not because he was shy, but because he did not want to embarrass her. For five months they kept their romance quiet—then news leaked after they attended a party together at Alma Cogan's flat.*

Gagging with Eamon Andrews of English TV.

Cathy McGowan interviews the boys on *Ready, Steady, Go.*

Paul and Jane had first met on May 9, 1963, a day the Beatles spent rehearsing at the Royal Albert Hall for a radio concert that evening. Topping the bill was American singer Del Shannon, and, as he went on stage, the Beatles slipped away before the 7,000 fans could mob them at the stage door.

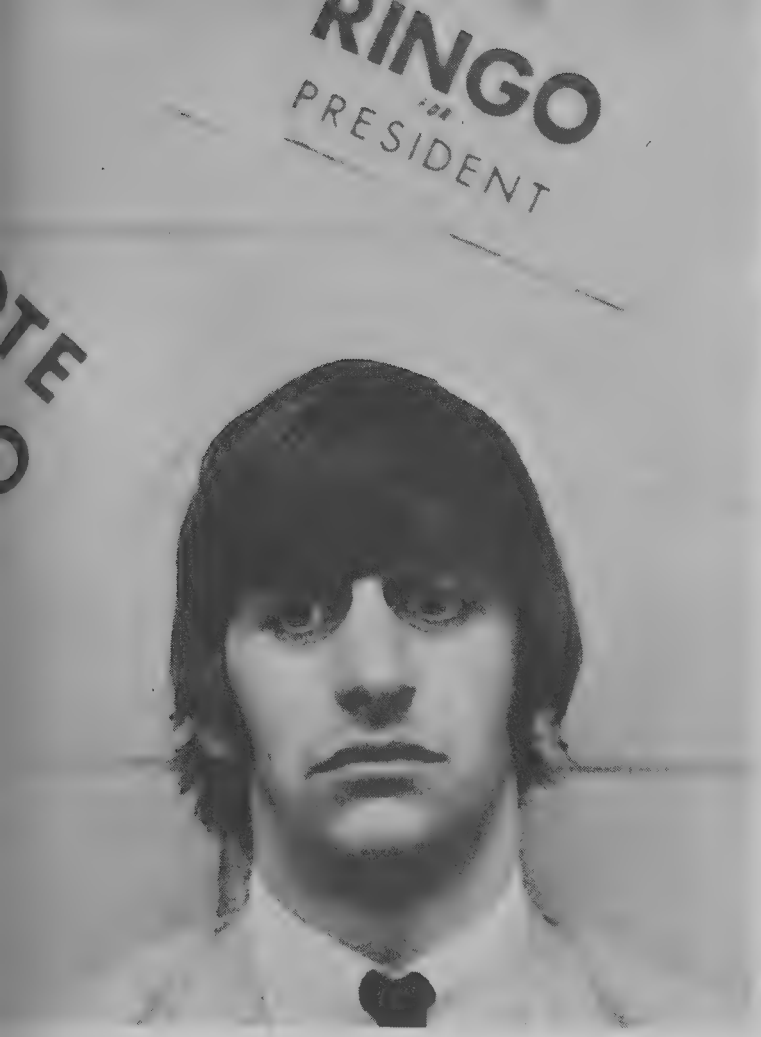
In their minibus, they traveled the 10-minute journey to the Royal Court Hotel, Sloane Square, where they were met in the lounge by their manager, Brian Epstein.

As they were sitting munching sandwiches and sipping coffee, a teenager with long, red hair walked over to their table. She was a young actress who had been asked to write an interview on the Beatles for a radio show. It was Jane Asher.

She was invited to join them for coffee, and afterwards John, Paul and George—Ringo stayed behind at the hotel—invited her to go with them to a friend's flat, where they sat on the floor and talked. While the others talked about records and show business, George was chatting up Jane, but as they left Paul offered to take her home by taxi. And on the way back to her parents' home in Wimpole Street, he asked to take her out again. A big Beatle romance had started.

WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE A BEATLE

Ever wondered what it's like to be a Beatle? George Harrison's brother Harry knew for a few moments—and he'd rather stay working at his factory bench!


RINGO
PRESIDENT

His glimpse of Beatlemania came when George offered him his former green Jaguar saloon car as a present—and Harry went down to London to collect it.

Outside the Beatles' London flat, the street was packed with girls.

"It was one of those places where you say who you are into a little speaker at the door," Harry recalls. "As soon as I said I was a Harrison, all the girls realized I was George's brother and started tearing at my coat and suit! That's all right for George—he's got a few more suits than me and that coat was the only one I had.

"The door was opened by the woman who lived in the flat next to George. All in black, she was, with a very severe expression. 'Do you mind*?' she said in a very haughty way to all the kids, and they stepped back a couple of yards, more in surprise than anything else.*

"When I was in, though, we had the problem of how to get out *again. It was fantastic to me, but to George it was an everyday thing. He ordered a taxi for 2 p.m., and the idea was to fling open the door and chase into the car before anyone realized what was happening. But it didn't work out that way. George took one peep outside the door and said, 'Oh, oh, oh—we'll never make it.'*

"So he rang up the police and asked them to help. A few minutes later a voice called through the door, 'All clear now, sir.' We darted out between the police and into the taxi, but the kids broke through the line of police. The taxi doors were flung open and all *the girls leaped in—and were chased out again by the police!*

"George and I squeezed up against the back of the seats while girls and police kept running in one door and out of the other. You didn't know who was chasing who. It was like something out of a Keystone Kops movie."

Harry is eight years older than George, taller and more thickset. He is married to a Liverpool girl and they have tow children. They now live at Ellesmere Port, on the opposite side of the Mersey to Liverpool. But in the Beatles' early days, Harry and his wife had a flat in Egbeth, Liverpool, where George and Paul often went for practice sessions.

When the Beatles began getting bookings around Liverpool, Harry used to ferry them around on the back of his motorbike.

"I remember one time," he says, "when I went to pick up George and couldn't find him. They had all

gone to a party and hadn't left a message for me. I spent half the night riding round the streets trying to find them."

GEORGE GETS A GUITAR

In those days, the Beatles' idol was Lonnie Donegan, the skiffler who started the British beat boom with Rock Island Line. *Most top groups now admit that they first started to play when they heard Lonnie's record. George was no exception. And the highlight of 1958 was when Lonnie appeared at the Empire, the largest theatre in Liverpool. George borrowed money from his parents to see the show several times.*

"He found out where Lonnie was staying," Harry recalls. "It was a house in Speke. George went round there and hammered on the door until Lonnie came out and gave him his autograph.

PAUL McCARTNEY*
PAUL McCARTNEY'S FATHER*
MR. AND MRS. JOHN LENNON*
JOHN LENNON'S AUNT MIMI*
MICK JAGGER*
BRIAN JONES*
RINGO STARR*
RINGO STARR'S PARENTS*
GEORGE HARRISON*
MR. AND MRS. HARRISON*
GEORGE'S SISTER LOUISE*
KEITH RICHARD*
CHARLIE WATTS
DAVE CLARK*
RICK HUXLEY*
LENNY DAVIDSON*
CARL WILSON*
MIKE LOVE*
JANE ASHER*
MAUREEN COX*
HERMAN AND HIS HERMITS*
ELVIS PRESLEY*
PRINCE CHARLES*
RICHARD CHAMBERLAIN*
JANET LANDGARD*
PETER ASHER*
DUSTY SPRINGFIELD*
BILLY J. KRAMER*
P. J. PROBY*
THE SEARCHERS*
THE MERSEYBEATS*
THE HONEYCOMBS*
TOMMY QUICKLY*
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PETER McENERY
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MIKE SMITH*
DENIS PAYTON*
BRIAN WILSON*
DENNIS WILSON*
AL JARDINE*
PATTIE BOYD*
THE ANIMALS—
ERIC BURDON*
HILTON VALENTINE*
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JOHNNY STEEL*
ANN-MARGRET*
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CILLA BLACK*
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"George learned to play guitar by listening to pop records and copying them. But his first guitar came to a very sad end. He had rested it up against a wall and was talking to Paul when someone suddenly pushed back a chair—right into the guitar! It was smashed across the middle. Although George had it repaired, it was never the same again.

"What he really wanted, though, was an electric guitar," explains Harry. "But Dad wasn't keen on him having it on hire purchase. He always said you shouldn't buy anything unless you had the money to pay for it. Anyhow, one night George, who was an apprentice electrician by this time—he was working for Blacker's, a Liverpool firm—came round to my flat. He went into a long speech about what the group was doing and how much better an electric guitar would be. I realized he was working up to something, but said nothing.

"Then he came out with it. He knew Dad wouldn't let him have anything on hire purchase, so he wanted me to sign the guarantee forms. I wasn't very keen, but he persuaded me to go to Hessy's, the Liverpool shop where all the groups bought their instruments. There he introduced me to the salesman, Jim Gretty, and showed me the guitar he wanted. It was priced at 120 pounds. George fiddled with it, trying to look like an expert, but no sound came out. So Jim pushed a button on the amplifier, and suddenly there was a tremendous blast and all the instruments on the opposite wall crashed to the floor. After that, *I just had to let George have the guitar!"*

George was 16 when he bought that guitar, and it lasted him through the first trip to Hamburg. Regularly each week he sent back the hire purchase installments from Germany.

BEATLEMANIA BEGINS

By this time, the Beatles were attacting wild screams wherever they played. This was when Beatlemania began, and Harry remembers it well.

"It was the girls at the Cavern who first whipped up that tremendous fan mania. After one trip to Hamburg, the boys were booked for a bank holiday appearance at the Cavern—and the fans started queuing up three days in advance.

"When the Beatles heard about it, they all piled into a van and went round to the Cavern. They counted up how many girls were waiting, and then went down to an all-night coffee stall at Pier Head, Liverpool, to buy pies and sandwiches for their fans. They they drove back to the Cavern and handed them round."

Harry laughed at the memory. "I don't think one of those pies was eaten. They were treasured souvenirs. Several girls I know took them home and put them on the mantlepiece. A few weeks later, one mother was still having to dust the pie whenever she cleaned the room!"

Former Beatle Peter Best—he was sacked shortly before the Beatles became famous, and Ringo took his place—remembers the first time the Beatles were mobbed. It was four years ago at Litherlands Town Hall, Liverpool, during a St. Valentine's Day dance.

"Elvis Presley's tune, Wooden Heart, *was one of our big numbers at that time, and the idea was that Paul would present a girl from the audience with a wooden heart.*

"He asked this girl to come up on stage, but instead of just one about 200 came. Paul disappeared beneath a sea of arms as they swarmed all over the stage. We all thought it was great. After that, it seemed to happen everywhere."

From that day on, no Beatle was safe. After a show, it had to be a quick dash to the waiting van to escape from the fans. John was particularly wild on stage. At one performance, after finishing What'd I Say, *he took a fantastic leap into the air—and split his jeans.*

"A few nights later, it happened again," Peter recalls. "It became such a feature that fans used to watch out for it. John used to wear specially tight jeans, and we'd all be waiting as he leaped. As he landed, he'd turn round and say, 'Look. I've done it again'—and there would be a roar of laughter."

Peter joined the Beatles the night before their first trip to Hamburg. His mother used to have a club.

The Casbah, where the Beatles often played. Sometimes he would join them on drums.

"Then one night Paul rang me up. 'Do you want to come to Germany?' he bellowed down the phone. 'Right, get your things packed. We're going tomorrow.' And that was that. I was a Beatle."

In Hamburg, at the Kaiserkeller, the boys used to play eight hours a day—for just 15 pounds a week. They were living in a couple of rooms over a cinema. Peter shared one room with Paul and singer Tony Sheridan, while John, George and Stu Sutcliffe were in the other.

Sheridan, who comes from Norwich and is now one of Germany's top pop singers, recalls that flat with a shudder.

"It was grim. Bohemian. Just the one attic—with no windows. Only a fanlight in the roof. When it rained, we were soaked. We had no carpets or heating. No running water. Just a basin and a stand. And a jug for washing.

"There were these six army bunks strewn about the two rooms. For months we lived on nothing but cornflakes as the place got filthier and filthier. We kept our bedclothes for a month or so at a time, because we couldn't afford to have them cleaned."

JOHN AND STU

Since schooldays, one of John's closest friends had been Stu Sutcliffe. But on that first trip to Hamburg romance came between them. Stu met a blonde German girl, Astrid Kirschner, fell madly in love with her, and left the Beatles.

Peter Best recalls, "Stu was a quiet type. Then, towards the end of the booking, he met Astrid and became even quieter. Didn't say much and you couldn't get anything out of him. He stayed on to go to the Hamburg College of Art. Once he came over to Liverpool to see us and seemed very happy. But that was the last time we saw him.

"Astrid was waiting for us when our plane touched

down at Hamburg for the start of the third tour.

"She was sobbing and told us Stu was dead. He had had a brain tumor. It was unbelievable. We couldn't take it in. I think John was hit the hardest. He had known Stu the longest. Went to college with him in Liverpool and shared a flat with him for a time. He never said anything, but you could tell he was heartbroken. We went on stage the following night. Nobody noticed anything, but our hearts weren't in it. We were all thinking of Stu—and of Astrid.

"She was terribly broken up about it. John saw her several times to try and help her over it. He still writes to her occasionally."

There had been some ill-feeling within the group before Stu left, and at least two fights resulted from it—one in the entrance to the Star Club, and the other on stage there. But John felt very close to Stu—they were like brothers. John had no brothers or sisters, his mother was dead, and his father had deserted him as a baby—so Stu's death came as a terrible blow.

As art students, when they had shared a flat with several friends in Liverpool, John got very excited when one one of Stu's paintings was chosen for an exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery.

"You must come along and see Stu's painting," John told his Aunt Mimi one evening. "It's great."

Next day, Mimi duly went along to the art gallery with John, who gripped her firmly by the arm, ushered her up the steps, past all the other exhibits to a room at the far end, where a large picture hung on the wall. Mimi stared at it.

"Well?" John asked.

"Er—well—er, what is it?" asked Mimi, hesitantly.

There was a strangled noise from John. He turned quickly, grabbed Mimi by the elbow and rushed her out of the gallery and back down the steps.

"If you're going to ask damn fool questions like that, you'd better go home," he rasped. "Go on. Go home!"

And he turned on his heel and stalked back into the gallery, and she still laughs as she retells it. "I duly came home with my tail between my legs," she grinned. "It was a shame, really, because I do love art. But the picture was so large that I couldn't make head or tail of it."

Stu might well have been playing with the Beatles now, but for that tragedy in Germany. Certainly, they were all fond of him and anxious that he should rejoin the group.

And there are four other people who also came near to being Beatle millionaires, but fell by the wayside.

Pete Shotton, who formed the original Quarrymen with John Lennon, left to get married, but now manages the VG Supermarket in Creek Road, Hayling Island—which George and John bought earlier this year.

Ken Brown, who played with John, George and Paul from their first night together in August, 1958, until early the following year, is now a milkman in Tottenham, North London, and still a close friend of Beatles' road manager, Neil Aspinall.

Nigel Whalley, who played in that first group with John and Pete Shotton (and later became the Beatles' first manager) is now a golf professional at a club near Sevenoaks, Kent, and is still a close friend of the boys.

But the saddest story of all is that of Peter Best, the Beatle who was sacked on the brink of stardom because their recording manager thought he was not a good enough drummer. Peter, who had played with the group for three years, later formed the Pete Best All Stars, and won a recording contract with Decca.

BEATLES RECORDINGS FACT SHEETS

SONG	COMPOSER	SUNG BY
I SAW HER STANDING THERE	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
MISERY	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
ANNA	Alexander	John
CHAINS	King-Goffin	John, Paul & George
BOYS	Dixon-Farrell	Ringo
ASK ME WHY	Lennon-McCartney	John
PLEASE PLEASE ME	Lennon-McCartney	John, Paul & George
LOVE ME DO	Lennon-McCartney	John, Paul & George
P.S., I LOVE YOU	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
BABY, IT'S YOU	David-Williams-Bacharach	John
DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET	Lennon-McCartney	George
A TASTE OF HONEY	Scott-Marlow	Paul
THERE'S A PLACE	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
TWIST AND SHOUT	Medley-Russell	John
IT WON'T BE LONG	Lennon-McCartney	John
ALL I'VE GOT TO DO	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
ALL MY LOVING	Lennon-McCartney	Paul
DON'T BOTHER ME	George Harrison	George
LITTLE CHILD	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
TILL THERE WAS YOU	Meredith Willson	Paul
PLEASE MR. POSTMAN	Holland	John, Paul & George
ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN	Chuck Berry	George
HOLD ME TIGHT	Lennon-McCartney	Paul, John & George
YOU REALLY GOT A HOLD ON ME	Robinson	John & George
I WANNA BE YOUR MAN	Lennon-McCartney	Ringo
DEVIL IN HER HEART	Drapkin	George, John & Paul
NOT A SECOND TIME	Lennon-McCartney	John
MONEY	Bradford-Gordy	John, George & Paul
I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
THIS BOY	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
THANK YOU GIRL	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
YOU CAN'T DO THAT	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
LONG TALL SALLY	Johnson-Penniman-Blackwell	Paul
I CALL YOUR NAME	Lennon-McCartney	John
I'LL GET YOU	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul

SONG	COMPOSER	SUNG BY
SHE LOVES YOU	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
FROM ME TO YOU	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
CAN'T BUY ME LOVVE	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
SLOW DOWN	Williams	John
MATCHBOX	Carl Perkins	Ringo
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN BETTER	Lennon-McCartney	John
IF I FELL	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
TELL ME WHY	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
AND I LOVE HER	Lennon-McCartney	Paul
A HARD DAY'S NIGHT	Lennon-McCartney	John
I'M HAPPY JUST TO DANCE WITH YOU	Lennon-McCartney	George
I'LL CRY INSTEAD	Lennon-McCartney	John
I FEEL FINE	Lennon-McCartney	Paul (on lead)
SHE'S A WOMAN	Lennon-McCartney	John (also plays piano on this)
NO REPLY	Lennon-McCartney	John (double-tracked with Paul and George on chorus)
I'M A LOSER	Lennon-McCartney	John (Paul sings harmony; John on harmonica)
BABY'S IN BLACK	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
ROCK AND ROLL MUSIC	Chuck Berry	John (Paul & George Martin on pianos)
I'LL FOLLOW THE SUN	Lennon-McCartney	Paul (double-tracked)
MISTER MOONLIGHT		John (Paul on organ & Ringo on congas)
KANSAS CITY	Lieber-Stoller	Paul (John & George sing harmony)
EIGHT DAYS A WEEK	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul (occasionally George)
WORDS OF LOVE	Buddy Holly	John & Paul
HONEY DON'T	Carl Perkins	Ringo
EVERY LITTLE THING	Lennon-McCartney	John (Paul sings falsetto harmony)
I DON'T WANT TO SPOIL THE PARTY	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
WHAT YOU'RE DOING	Lennon-McCartney	Paul
EVERBODY'S TRYING TO BE MY BABY	Carl Perkins	George (Paul sings harmony)
TICKET TO RIDE	Lennon-McCartney	John
YES IT IS	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul (George sings harmony)
YOU LIKE ME TOO MUCH	George Harrison	George
TELL ME WHAT YOU SEE	Lennon-McCartney	John & Paul
BAD BOY	L. Williams	John
DIZZY MISS LIZZIE	L. Williams	John

meet CYNTHIA LENNON

Cynthia Powell Lennon is the 22-year-old wife of head Beatle John Lennon. She has blonde hair and blue eyes. Cynthia is 5 feet 4 inches tall and weighs 110 lbs. The Lennons have a son, John Charles Julian, who just turned two on April 8. Cynthia, who dislikes publicity, is a quiet, devoted, and understanding wife. Cyn (John never calls her anything else) accompanying her husband on his first trip to America. Cynthia says of John: "He has not changed from the first day I met him. I understand everything he does. He may surprise many, but he never surprises me."

meet MARY STARKEY

Mary "Maureen" (Mo) Cox Starkey was once a hairdresser's assistant in Liverpool. When she was 15 years old, she consoled the Beatles' new drummer, Ringo Starr — and ended up becoming his bride on February 11, 1965. Maureen is 5 feet 3 inches tall, weighs 102 lbs. and has hazel eyes. She sometimes dyes her dark-brown hair auburn. Maureen and Ringo spend many evenings dancing together at the famous Ad Lib Club in London, and Maureen's flair for unique clothes' styling has turned her into one of the top-trend setters for the Mods.

meet JANE ASHER

Jane Asher was born in London on April 5, 1946. She is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 112 lbs. She has red hair and blue eyes. She lives in a private house in London with her parents, younger brother Peter (who is a member of the Peter and Gordon team) and her 16-year-old sister, Claire. Jane, who is an actress and TV-radio commentator, met Paul at a radio show before the Beatles were nationally famous. Soon, they were dating regularly. When Paul stays in London, he is often house guest of the Ashers, and Jane has visited his new home in Wirral on several occasions, though both Paul and Jane deny that they "go steady." It is a well-known fact that he prefers her company to any other girl's.

meet PATTIE BOYD

Blonde - haired, blue - eyed Pattie Boyd is 20 years old. She is a well-known London model and has been dating George Harrison steadily since they met while he was filming A Hard Day's Night. *Pattie, whose real name is Patricia Ann Boyd, is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 110 lbs. Pattie has taken two vacations with George, and was his guest while he and the Beatles were recently on location in Austria for their new movie. George insists he won't be getting married for a long, long time.*

Mr. Paul McCartney

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LIVERPOOL
CHESHIRE, ENGLAND

Love from
Paul McCartney

Mr. George Harrison

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WALL BUNGALOW
CLAREMONT, ESHER
SURREY, ENGLAND

Best –
George Harrison

Mr. John Lennon

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CAVENDISH ROAD
ST. GEORGE'S HILL, WEYBRIDGE
SURREY, ENGLAND

All my Best

John Lennon

Mr. Richard Starkey

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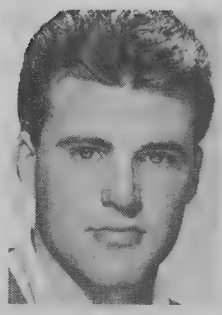

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LATEST HOT FLASHES about

THE BEATLES were a smash hit in France, Spain and Italy when they did their personal appearances there. When the boys got ready to leave Italy, they were told that they had to fork over the estimated tax they owed the Italian government before they could get on the plane!

Farther out by far than his last book is John Lennon's latest, A Spaniard In The Works. *The title is a take-off on the English expression, "a spanner (monkey wrench) in the works"—which means everything is all fouled up. Any readers who cannot find a copy of* A Spaniard I.T.W. *may send a check or money order to Simon and Schuster, 630 Fifth Avenue, New York City 10020—and they will get the book in a matter of days. However, be* sure *to state the name of the book, and include* your *full name and address in the order.*

Ringo finally persuaded his mum and dad, Elsie and Harry, to move into a new home. The house is a modern, $24,000 bungalow at Gate-acre Park in Liverpool. Richie (as his mum calls him) broke her will *not* to move when he simply picked her up one day and drove her over to see the house. "It was so beautiful, I couldn't resist," says Mrs. Starkey. "I just hope the fans don't come 'round too much, as it might bother the neighbors —and then they'd wish us to move."

Harry Starkey, by the way, is not Ringo's real father—but is his stepfather. Now *there* is what was once a well kept secret. No other facts available, luvs.

Paul McCartney has recorded without John, George and Ringo! John wrote the song and Paul sings over a *string quartet* on it. Paul wrote the arrangements himself, and a cello is featured prominently! The band will be on the Beatles' movie LP, *Help!*, and (so they say) will never be released as a single. The most riotous band on the LP is *I'm Down,* which will be released as a single along with *Help!* Paul sings *Down* and John and Paul do *Help!* On the same LP, Ringo sings a well-known country and western tune.

Paul's statement on marrying Jane Asher: "I will marry one day, but at this moment I am not engaged and no date has been set."

George's statement on marrying Pattie Boyd: "We will get married, but when *is another ques-*

the BEATLES!

tion. I will do it like Ringo did. That is, keep my plans secret till the last moment. I think a wedding should be private — not another TV show or concert with hundreds of photographers and police guards."

John has turned in his old Rolls "limo" and bought a special-made solid black (that means not a fleck of chrome in sight) Rolls. It even has darkened rear windows, so that the Lennons can look at the car telly whilst they ride along life's highway!

While John was shooting *Help!*, some fan copped (stole) the green velour cap he used in some of the scenes. Continuity of the film was held up for two days while Wardrobe hastily made him a replica of the cap!

Maureen "Midge" "Mo" Mary Cox Starkey was born on August 4, 1946—which means she's just turned 18!

Until they played Shea Stadium in New York, the largest crowd to see the Beatles in action were 64,000 people (two shows in one day) in Milan, Italy, this summer.

John and Cynthia Lennon are NOT the parents of a baby girl—contrary to what some Hollywood columnists have printed!

That's nobody else but John peering at you from under that tilted sombrero with the monkey wrench in his mitt.* A Spaniard In The Works *is the title of his new book.

Elsie and Harry Starkey in a happy pose—and no wonder. . . . they just moved into this luxurious new home Ringo provided for them.

Photo courtesy of "Daily Express"

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